



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

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ASMFC Begins Search for New Executive Director

Washington, DC – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission today announced that it has begun the search for a new Executive Director. “We are looking for a strong, visionary leader,” said Commission Chair, Susan Shipman of Georgia. “We need someone who can help the states continue to achieve all that they can by working together in a spirit of mutual cooperation for marine fisheries.”

The need for the Commission to search for a new Executive Director arose when Dr. William T. Hogarth, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), announced that the Commission’s current Executive Director, John H. Dunnigan, had been selected to become the Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries at NOAA Fisheries. The actual date of the transition is still being negotiated. “I am leaving with a wonderful sense of accomplishment for the past ten years,” Mr. Dunnigan said. “And I will always cherish the memories of the wonderful people I had the opportunity to work with.”

Ms. Shipman indicated that the Commission intends to move immediately in seeking a new leader for its staff. Applications are due to the Commission’s office by January 2, 2002; and interviews are expected to be scheduled for January 8, 2002.

The Commission was formed over 60 years ago by the fifteen Atlantic coastal states. It carries out cooperative programs in fisheries conservation and management, research, statistics, habitat, law enforcement and state representation. Under federal law, the states must implement fishery management recommendations that are made by the Commission. “In our institution, the Executive Director is the force that brings us together, and energizes us to find creative solutions to problems that meet the needs of all the states,” said Ms. Shipman. She added, “The Executive Director is also our representative to the community at large – to Congress, the Administration and the regional fishery management councils; as well as to major fisheries constituencies. So this is a unique challenge.”

Ms. Shipman indicated that the Commission would be looking for a person who is strongly committed to the mutual success of the states in carrying out their cooperative marine fisheries programs. “All of the states are interested in protecting our marine fisheries, and we know that we have to work effectively with each other if we are going to be successful,” she said. “The ability to help us identify our mutual interests, and then to project them to the fisheries community at large will be very important.”

Persons interested in applying may consult the Commission’s web site <www.asmfc.org> or contact Ms. Laura C. Leach, Director of Finance & Administration, at the Commission’s offices for more information.

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The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.

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